

# ***TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT***

August 20, 2015

 Volume 23, No. 34

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Town Council Committee of the Whole, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1

## **OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

The Groton Town Police Department is pleased to announce that Officer Heather McClelland has been selected as the Department's Officer of the Year. Officer McClelland will be honored along with other area officers at Law Enforcement Night presented by the Groton Lodge of Elks on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Please see Attachment 1 for more information.

## **TRANSFER STATION ANNUAL PERMITS**

Beginning on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Public Works personnel will begin selling Residential Transfer Station permits for the period September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016. The options for obtaining a permit are:

- In person Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Transfer Station (through September 25<sup>th</sup> only)
- In person Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex
- By mail anytime

Please see Attachment 2 for more information.

## **OTHER ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment 3 is notification from Eversource Energy of planned statewide infrared helicopter inspections of high-voltage electrical equipment.
2. Attachment 4 is notification from Ledge Light Health District concerning mosquitos testing positive for West Nile Virus in Groton on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

3. Attachment 5 is a thank you note from Kathleen Burns of the Connecticut Marine Association thanking Joe Sastre for presenting at their Severe Weather Summit on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### 1. Office of Planning and Development (May)

- Staff spent time preparing for the May arbitration regarding the Mystic Streetscape project.
- Staff held a preconstruction meeting for the Mystic Indoor Sports addition.
- Economic Development staff assisted three potential business owners with site selection and zoning related questions.
- Staff worked with Public Works to determine how to create a plan using Capital Improvement Program funds to complete a reuse study related to the Mystic Education Center.
- The State Department of Housing accepted the release of funds for the 2015 Housing Authority Grant.
- The Market Analysis and Zoning Audit focus group was held on May 27<sup>th</sup> with over 40 people in attendance.
- There were 46 building permits, 26 electrical permits, 14 plumbing permits and 24 mechanical permits issued.
- There were 21 sign violations issued.

MRO/lh

Groton Lodge of Elks #2163 Presents:

## LAW ENFORCEMENT NIGHT

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Honoring Police Officers from Groton  
Town, Groton City, Groton Long Point,  
Ledyard, Stonington, Sub Base, North  
Stonington, Mashantucket, and  
CT State Police Troop E

6 p.m. Cocktails

7 p.m. Dinner (salad, pot roast, potato  
dessert & coffee)

\$15.00 per person

Cash Bar ---- Awards to follow

**PERMIT SALES FOR THE YEAR THAT BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2015  
WILL COMMENCE ON AUGUST 26, 2015.**

For the permit year 2016, Residential Transfer Station Annual Permits will once again be \$80 per household. The permits will be valid from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016. This annual permit consists of a special hangtag that will be displayed in the resident's vehicle while at the Transfer Station. The hangtag must be displayed in the specific vehicle for which it is purchased. A resident may receive multiple hang tags for multiple vehicles but they only pay one \$80 fee regardless of the number of hangtags issued to that household.

Permit sales will be held at the Transfer Station at 685 Flanders Road starting Wednesday, August 26th. Public Works personnel will be at the Transfer Station Wednesday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. There are no Saturday permit sales. Permits can be purchased at the Transfer Station on Wednesday through Friday until Friday September 25, 2015.

Permit sales will be begin at the Town Hall Annex at 134 Groton Long Point Road starting Wednesday, August 26th. Normal hours of operation for the Town Hall Annex are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We also offer the option of purchasing your annual permit by mail, by sending us a copy of your current vehicle registration, and your check for \$80 payable to the Town of Groton. We will then mail the new Transfer Station hangtag. The copy of the current vehicle registration along with the check for \$80 can be mailed to Town of Groton Public Works, 134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton, CT 06234-4873.



## News Release

### Eversource Conducts Statewide Infrared Helicopter Inspections

**BERLIN, Conn.** Beginning this week, Eversource will be conducting aerial inspections of high-voltage electrical equipment on rights-of-way throughout Connecticut. This semiannual inspection is an important part of the company's ongoing commitment to providing reliable electric service. The work involves the use of a helicopter equipped with heat-sensing, infrared scanning technology which can detect potential equipment issues before they occur.

"Well over a million customers in Connecticut depend on us for reliable electric service to power their day-to-day lives," said Steve Gilkey, Vice President of Connecticut Field Operations at Eversource. "The semiannual helicopter inspections of our transmission lines are a crucial and effective part of our commitment to reducing the frequency and duration of power outages."

Current plans call for Eversource's infrared inspections this week in Hartford and Middlesex counties. **Next week, inspections will continue in Fairfield and Litchfield counties and finish-up the week in New London and Windham counties.** Weather-permitting, the inspections will take place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. **using a blue Jet Ranger helicopter with a silver stripe and registration number N1431W.**

The region's transmission system is the backbone of the electric grid. Overhead inspections of transmission lines and equipment – often located upwards of 100 feet in the air – help engineers detect potential problems in advance, allowing the company to schedule necessary maintenance and upgrades before reliability issues arise.



August 19, 2015

### **Mosquitoes in Groton Test Positive for West Nile Virus**

Ledge Light Health District announced today that mosquitoes trapped in Groton on August 12, 2015 have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Although positive WNV mosquitoes are normally expected during the summer months, their presence serves as a reminder for residents to take standard precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

#### **Precautions to avoid mosquito bites include:**

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn.
- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- While outdoors, wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Clothing material should be tightly woven.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.
- Consider using mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors and always use them according to label instructions. The most effective repellents contain DEET or Picaridin. Oil of lemon eucalyptus is also effective for brief periods of exposure.
- When using DEET, use the lowest concentration effective for the time spent outdoors (for example, 6% lasts approximately 2 hours and 20% for 4 hours) and wash treated skin when returning indoors. Do not apply under clothing, to wounds or irritated skin, the hands of children, or to infants less than 2 months.

#### **Measures to reduce mosquitoes around the home include:**

- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, and tire swings.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers such as those used for recycling.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Turn over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows.
- Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and cover pools when not in use.
- Use landscaping to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

**Additional resources for information on West Nile virus and mosquito management can be found at <http://www.ct.gov/mosquito/site/default.asp>**

Ledge Light Health District has a supply of larvacidal briquettes that can be used to treat standing water on private property. This larvacide prevents mosquitoes from developing into adults. Residents of municipalities served by Ledge Light Health District may request treatment of standing water on their property by calling Felix Prokop III at 860-448-4882, extension 329. A District Sanitarian will visit your property and apply the larvacide to the area of standing water. The treatment will last approximately 30 days.

The treatment of stagnant water with larvacide, coupled with the additional protective measures listed above, will significantly reduce the potential for West Nile Virus transmission.

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Ledge Light Health District – LLHD – serves as the local health department for East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London and Groton, Connecticut. As a health district, formed under Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-241, LLHD is a special unit of government, allowing member municipalities to provide comprehensive public health services to residents in a more efficient manner by consolidating the services within one organization.

The Director of Health and staff of LLHD work to promote health and wellness among the 120,000 residents we serve. By enforcing the Connecticut Public Health Code, conducting health education programs, monitoring disease outbreaks and nurturing our environment, LLHD is focused on *promoting healthy communities*.

LLHD's mission statement – **to prevent disease, illness and injury; to protect and nurture our environment; and to promote improved health and prosperity for all residents** – describes in more detail our slogan of "promoting healthy communities."

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Promoting healthy communities

216 Broad Street • New London, CT 06320 • phone. 860.448.4882 • fax. 860.448.4885 • [www.llhd.org](http://www.llhd.org)

experiences in bringing that to  
our membership!

Again - many thanks!

Sincerely,

Lauren Burns

Dear Joe,

August 2015

Please accept our sincerest thanks for your  
participation in CMTA's first ever  
Severe Weather Summit. Our attendees  
found the event very helpful and we are  
looking forward to expanding the  
event offering the opportunity to a much  
larger audience.

With sincerest thanks you for your  
expertise and real insights



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# OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

MAY 2015

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Project Management staff spent nearly all of their time preparing for May arbitration regarding additional payments demanded by the contractor for the Mystic Streetscape project, Phase I. This work is tedious, exacting, time consuming, and necessary to defend the town's position that no additional payments beyond the original contract are warranted.
- \* Staff held a preconstruction meeting for the Mystic Indoor Sports addition. Construction will get underway this month.
- \* The Market Analysis and Zoning Audit project kicked off on May 27th with numerous stakeholder interviews throughout the day, and a focus group meeting in the evening.
- \* Planning staff coordinated a walk-through of the Shepard of the Sea chapel and community center. The buildings are part of a 13 acre site offered to state and local governments to be used for park and recreational purposes.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \* Assisted three potential business owners (micro-brewery, compressed natural gas refueling station, and retail/e-commerce screen printing business) with site selection and zoning related questions. The CNG refueling station was put in touch with seCTer to begin determining regional demand for CNG.
- \* Worked with representatives from the Avery-Copp House, City of Groton and City of New London to move forward with plans for creating a transition team for the Thames River Heritage Park, funding the park in the future and funding the water taxi this summer. Staff coordinated a conference call with consultants to discuss a signage study for the park as well as used contacts to set up a conference call with a potential water taxi operator for this summer.
- \* Coordinated the kickoff for the Market Analysis and Zoning Audit on May 27<sup>th</sup>. This included creating a Focus Group, scheduling interviews with developers, businesses, & land use commissioners, and guiding the consultants on a driving tour of the town.
- \* Worked with Public Works and other OPDS staff to determine how to create a plan using Capital Improvement Program funds to complete a reuse study related to the Mystic Education Center. Staff is working with VHB/Camion to provide an estimate for the study and to continue communication with Department of Economic and Community Development about the project.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- \* The Housing Rehabilitation Program has three single family homes under construction.
- \* OPDS received confirmation from the State Department of Housing that the release of funds and environmental review for compliance was accepted for the application for the 2015 Housing Authority Grant.

## COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

**Planning Commission** approved a site plan for renovation and additions to the KFC on Route 12.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** upheld the zoning official's decision that the proposed use of 40 High Rock Road (the former Pfizer Daycare) as a hotel/motel for temporary residential accommodations for up to 192 individuals participating in an off-site program for recovery for the addiction disabled is not allowed by the Zoning Regulations.

The kick-off meeting of the Market Analysis and Zoning Audit focus group was held on Monday, May 27th at the Town Hall Annex.

Over 40 people from numerous stakeholder groups attended.



Land Use Applications	This Month	Calendar Year to Date
Site Plans	2	5
Subdivisions	0	4
Inland Wetland Permits	2	5
Special Permits	0	1
Regulation/Map Amendments	0	1
Variances/Appeals	3	8
Cert. of Appr. of Location	0	0
Coastal Site Plans	2	5
Administrative Site Plans	4	7
Land Use Applications Submitted	13	36

## INSPECTION SERVICES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS—MAY 2015

- ◇ Total building fees collected for FYE 2015 less reimbursements: \$222,999
- ◇ Building permits were issued for renovations at 780 Long Hill Road for a nail salon, for renovations at 516-528 Gold Star Highway known as Toll Gate Plaza, and to install a canopy at New England Power Produces located at 661 Gold Star Highway.
- ◇ Building permits were issued for a tenant fit-out and signage for a new Pet Valu Store location at 220 Route 12.
- ◇ A Certificate of Occupancy was issued for interior and exterior renovations at Michael Kia located at 421 Route 12.

ITEM	RECEIVED IN MAY	CALENDAR 2015 TOTAL
BUILDING PERMITS	46	192
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	26	126
PLUMBING PERMITS	14	64
MECHANICAL PERMITS	24	109
SPRINKLER PERMIT	1	4
MOBILE HOME PERMITS	1	3
ESTIMATED VALUE	1,413,166	
RESIDENTIAL PERMITS ISSUED—NEW	3	9
ESTIMATED VALUE	460,000	1,166,900
RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	29	131
NEW COMMERCIAL PERMITS	0	1
COMMERCIAL ADDITIONS	10	25
SIGNS	1	3
POOL PERMITS	2	4
SHED PERMITS	7	12
SINGLE FAMILY/DUPLEX UNITS APPROVED	1	2
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED (less reimbursements)	15,915	
CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED	2	27
UNITS CONNECTED TO TOWN SEWER	2	11
HDC CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS	2	12
CODE ENFORCEMENT		
SIGN VIOLATIONS	21	92
VEHICLES/WASTE	3	8
OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	0	6
PENDING LITIGATION	0	0
CASES RESOLVED	1	6